

**Amendments To The Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)      An expandable intraluminal stent for implantation in a blood vessel comprising:

        a main body portion having a first end portion, a second end portion and a middle portion, wherein each of the first end portion, the second end portion and the middle portion have a metal outer surface, [[and ]]a metal inner surface and at least one end surface extending between the outer surface and the inner surface, the stent having openings extending from the metal outer surface to the metal inner surface in each of the first end portion, second end portion, and middle portion, wherein the openings in the middle portion are smaller in size than the openings in at least one of the first end portion and second end portion;

        a flow passage defined therethrough; and

        a first biocompatible coating adhered directly on at least the metal outer surface of the first end portion of the main body portion and the at least one end surface, wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises a polymer or a drug contacting the metal outer surface, and wherein the metal outer surface and the metal inner surface of the middle portion are free of the polymer or drug.

Claims 2-90. (Canceled)

Claim 91. (Previously Presented)      The stent of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises apertures or perforations.

Claim 92. (Currently Amended)      The stent of claim 1, further comprising a layer of a second biocompatible coating disposed on the first biocompatible coating.

Claim 93. (Previously Presented)      The stent of claim 92, wherein the first and second biocompatible coatings comprise the same coating material.

Claim 94. (Previously Presented)      The stent of claim 92, wherein the first and second biocompatible coatings comprise different coating materials.

Claim 95. (Previously Presented)      The stent of claim 1, wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises a polymer and the polymer is a bioadhesive.

Claim 96. (Previously Presented)      The stent of claim 1, wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises a polymer and the polymer comprises a gel-like material.

Claim 97. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises a drug and the drug is paclitaxel, an RGD peptide-containing compound, tranilast, trapidil, probucol, or a combination thereof.

Claim 98. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first end portion of the main body portion is more flexible than the middle portion of the main body portion.

Claim 99. (Cancelled)

Claim 100. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is balloon-expandable.

Claim 101. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the metal comprises stainless steel.

Claim 102. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 98, wherein the first end portion is made of a first metal, and the middle portion is made of a second metal; and wherein the first metal is more flexible than the second metal.

Claim 103. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 102 wherein the second end portion is made of the first metal.

Claim 104. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 102 wherein the second end portion is made of a third metal, and wherein the third metal is more flexible than the second metal.

Claim 105. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises Tranilast.

Claim 106. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises Tropicidil.

Claim 107. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first biocompatible coating comprises Probucol.

Claim 108. (Currently Amended) A stent having an outer metal surface, an inner metal surface, a first end portion, a second end portion and a middle portion, at least one end surface extending between the inner metal surface and the outer metal surface, wherein each of the first end portion, second end portion, and middle portion have openings extending between the inner metal surface and outer metal surface, the openings in the middle portion being smaller in size than the openings in at least one of the first end portion and second end portion, the first end portion and the at least one end surface having a biocompatible coating comprising a polymer, the

polymer contacting the outer metal surface, wherein the polymer does not extend onto the outer metal surface of the middle portion of the stent.

Claim 109. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a main body portion having a flow passage defined therethrough, the main body portion having a first end portion, a second end portion and a middle portion, wherein the main body portion has a metal outer surface, a metal inner surface, and openings extending from the metal outer surface to the metal inner surface in each of the first end portion, second end portion, and middle portion, the first end portion comprising at least one end surface extending between the inside surface and the outside surface, wherein the openings in the middle portion are smaller in size than the openings in at least one of the first end portion and second end portion; and

a polymer or a drug coating adhered directly on at least the metal outer surface and the end surface of the first end portion of the main body portion, wherein the metal outer surface and the metal inner surface of the middle portion are free of any coating comprising a polymer or a drug.

Claim 110. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises apertures or perforations.

Claim 111. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109 further comprising a plurality of layers of coating, wherein the plurality of layers includes at least one layer disposed over the polymer or drug coating directly on at least the metal outer surface of the first end portion of the main body portion, the plurality of layers comprising at least one coating material.

Claim 112. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 111, wherein the plurality of layers comprises the same coating material.

Claim 113. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 111, wherein the plurality of layers comprises different coating materials.

Claim 114. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the polymer is a bioadhesive.

Claim 115. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the polymer comprises a gel-like material.

Claim 116. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the drug is paclitaxel, an RGD peptide-containing compound, tranilast, trapidil, probucol, or a combination thereof.

Claim 117. (Cancelled)

Claim 118. (Cancelled)

Claim 119. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the stent is balloon-expandable.

Claim 120. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the metal comprises stainless steel.

Claim 121. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises Tranilast.

Claim 122. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises Tropidil.

Claim 123. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 109, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises Probucol.

Claim 124. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a metallic framework having a first end portion, a second end portion, and a middle portion therebetween, the first end portion comprising first openings and the middle portion comprising second openings, the first openings being larger in size than the second openings, wherein at least a portion of the metallic framework comprises a nickel-titanium alloy, an inside surface, an outside surface, and at least one end surface extending between the inside surface and the outside surface; and

a polymeric covering disposed on at least one of the first end portion, ~~and the second end portion, and the at least one end surface,~~ wherein the stent is self-expanding.

Claim 125. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 124, wherein the polymeric covering is disposed on at least a portion of the inside surface and outside surface of at least one of the first end portion and the second end portion.

Claim 126. (Cancelled)

Claim 127. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 12[[6]]4, wherein the metallic framework comprises a plurality of edges, the polymeric covering disposed on at least one of the plurality of edges.

Claim 128. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 124, wherein the polymeric covering comprises a plurality of layers.

Claim 129. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 128, wherein the plurality of layers comprises a first layer and a second layer, the material of the first and second layers being the same.

Claim 130. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 128, wherein the plurality of layers comprises a first layer and a second layer, the material of the first and second layers being different.

Claim 131. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 128, wherein at least one of the layers comprises a drug.

Claim 132. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 124, wherein the polymeric covering is disposed on only one of the first end portion and the second end portion.

Claim 133. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 124, wherein the polymeric covering comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 134. (Currently Amended) A self-expanding stent comprising:

a metallic framework having a first end portion, a second end portion, and a middle portion therebetween, the first end portion being more flexible than the middle portion, wherein at least a portion of the metallic framework comprises a nickel-titanium alloy;

the first end portion comprising an inside surface, an outside surface, and at least one end surface extending between the inside surface and the outside surface; and

a polymeric material disposed on only the first end portion and the at least one end surface of the first end portion.

Claim 135. (Previously Presented) The self-expanding stent of claim 133 having a sidewall with a plurality of openings therethrough along the length of the stent, wherein the polymeric material extends across the openings in the first end portion.